

Senate File 419 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 419
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1159)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for vision screening for school children.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.39D **Vision screening.**

2 1. The parent or guardian of a child to be enrolled in a
3 public or accredited nonpublic elementary school shall ensure
4 that the child is screened for vision impairment at least once
5 before enrollment in kindergarten and again before enrollment
6 in grade three. The parent or guardian of the child shall
7 ensure that evidence of the vision screening is provided to the
8 school district or accredited nonpublic school in which the
9 child is enrolled. Evidence of the vision screening may be
10 provided either directly from the parent or guardian or from a
11 vision screening provider referred to in subsection 2, and may
12 be provided in either written or electronic form.

13 2. The requirement for vision screening may be satisfied by
14 any of the following:

15 a. A vision screening or comprehensive eye examination by a
16 licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist.

17 b. A vision screening conducted at a pediatrician's or
18 family practice physician's office, a free clinic, a child
19 care center, a local public health department, a public or
20 accredited nonpublic school, or a community-based organization,
21 or by an advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician
22 assistant.

23 c. An online vision screening, which may be conducted by a
24 child's parent or guardian.

25 d. A photoscreening vision screening, including a vision
26 screening by Iowa kidsight.

27 3. All vision screening methods pursuant to subsection 2,
28 including emerging vision screening technologies, shall be
29 age-appropriate and shall be approved by the department in
30 consultation with leading vision organizations in the state,
31 licensed ophthalmologists, and licensed optometrists.

32 4. A person who performs a vision screening required
33 pursuant to this section shall report the results of the vision
34 screening to the department. The department may collect and
35 maintain such reports through the statewide immunization

1 registry or a private contractor.

2 5. Each public and accredited nonpublic elementary school
3 shall, in collaboration with the department, do the following:

4 a. Provide the parents or guardians of students with vision
5 screening referral resources.

6 b. Arrange for evidence of vision screenings provided
7 pursuant to subsection 1 to be forwarded to the department.

8 6. A child shall not be prohibited from attending school
9 based upon the failure of a parent or guardian to ensure that
10 the child has received the vision screening required by this
11 section.

12 7. If a vision screening required pursuant to this section
13 identifies potential vision impairment in a child, the person
14 who performed the vision screening shall, if the person is not
15 a licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist, refer the
16 child to a licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist for
17 a comprehensive eye examination.

18 8. The department shall establish procedures to contact
19 parents or guardians of children identified as having potential
20 vision impairment based on the results of a vision screening
21 required pursuant to subsection 1 or a comprehensive eye
22 examination required pursuant to subsection 7 in order to
23 provide information on obtaining necessary vision correction.

24 9. The department may share information with licensed
25 health care providers, agencies, and other persons involved
26 with vision screenings, eye examinations, follow-up services,
27 and intervention services as necessary to administer this
28 section. The department shall adopt rules to protect the
29 confidentiality of the individuals involved.

30 10. The vision screening requirement shall not apply if
31 the vision screening conflicts with a parent's or guardian's
32 genuine and sincere religious belief.

33 11. A person who acts in good faith in complying with this
34 section shall not be civilly or criminally liable for reporting
35 the information required to be reported by this section.

1 12. The department shall adopt rules necessary to
2 administer this section.

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill requires the parent or guardian of a child to be
5 enrolled in a public or accredited nonpublic elementary school
6 to ensure that the child is screened for vision impairment
7 at least once before enrollment in kindergarten and again
8 before enrollment in grade three. The bill requires the parent
9 or guardian to ensure that evidence of the vision screening
10 is provided to the child's school and sets out methods for
11 providing such evidence. The bill lists various ways the
12 vision screening requirement may be satisfied.

13 The bill requires a person who performs a required vision
14 screening to report the results of the vision screening to
15 the department of public health. The bill provides that the
16 department may collect and maintain such reports through the
17 statewide immunization registry or a private contractor.

18 The bill establishes various duties for each public and
19 accredited nonpublic elementary school, in collaboration with
20 the department of public health, to implement the bill.

21 The bill specifies that a child cannot be prohibited from
22 attending school based upon the failure of a parent or guardian
23 to ensure that the child has received the required vision
24 screening.

25 The bill requires a person performing a required vision
26 screening, if the person is not a licensed ophthalmologist or
27 licensed optometrist, to refer children identified as having
28 potential vision impairment to a licensed ophthalmologist or
29 licensed optometrist for a comprehensive eye examination.

30 The bill requires the department of public health to
31 establish procedures to contact parents or guardians of
32 children in need of vision correction based on the results of a
33 required vision screening in order to provide information on
34 obtaining necessary vision correction.

35 The bill permits the department of public health to share

1 information with various entities as necessary to administer
2 the bill. The bill requires the department to adopt rules to
3 protect the confidentiality of the individuals involved.

4 The vision screening requirement does not apply if the
5 vision screening conflicts with a parent's or guardian's
6 genuine and sincere religious belief.

7 A person who acts in good faith in complying with the bill
8 shall not be civilly or criminally liable for reporting the
9 information required by the bill.